Our approach to safety

At Rio Tinto our goal is for everyone to go home safe at the end of each shift. Eliminating fatalities and catastrophic events, while reducing the number and severity of injuries, is something we strive for each and every day. Our approach to safety goes beyond compliance and seeks to achieve year-on-year improvement.

We have global Safety standards which address key areas of risk. The standards provide consistency in safety management and performance across our global operations and projects. Our businesses are audited internally against these standards and are expected to meet safety performance requirements and targets.

Our priorities for effective safety performance and management

To manage risk and improve performance we utilise an integrated framework that builds upon the policies, global strategies and standards that are developed and implemented across the Group. We expect safety engagement at all levels of the organisation, supported by effective management systems that are fit for purpose, and internal controls that include monitoring and reporting against relevant metrics.

To achieve this we:

- Ensure behaviour is aligned with our values – respect, integrity, teamwork and accountability.

- Report and investigate all incidents, ensuring the learnings are shared and implemented across the organisation.

- Actively involve employees and contractors in all areas of safety management.

- Implement safety performance standards and expectations for managing critical risks associated with aviation, confined spaces, cranes and lifting, electrical works, isolation, vehicles and driving, and working at heights.

- Deploy training to ensure employees and contractors understand the controls for managing the risks.

- Measure and monitor our performance against the minimum safety standards.

- Maintain an appropriate safety assurance framework through a range of audits, reviews and verifications against our standards.

- Develop, implement and embed a focus on process safety and fatality prevention programmes.

- Establish, implement and monitor critical control plans to manage our key safety risks.

- Expect our leaders to be visible and passionate champions for safety. They willingly accept accountability for the safety of everyone working in their teams and consistently set high standards through their behaviour, where everyone is committed to their own safety and the safety of their workmates.